



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

August 6, 2021

Mr. Robert P. Gordon
Site Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
53 Bell Ave., Building 464
Upton, NY 11973-5000

Re: CERCLA Five-Year Review 2021
Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This letter is in response to the Fourth *Five-Year Review Report* for the Brookhaven National Laboratory Superfund Site located in Upton, New York, submitted for EPA review and concurrence on June 1, 2021. The Five-Year Review was prepared to fulfill the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 121 (c). Pursuant to 40 CFR 300.430(f)(4)(ii), reviews no less often than every five years are required of any remedial actions that have been selected in Records of Decision which do not allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure (UU/UE).

The Draft Five-Year Review Report has been reviewed by the EPA Region 2 technical team and by EPA Headquarters. Our review was conducted in accordance with EPA's "Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance" (OSWER Directive No. 9355.7-03B-P) and other relevant guidance. This letter is to document the overall protectiveness for the site by Operable Unit (OU). Additional comments will be sent under separate cover.

EPA has made the following determinations for the following OUs:

- Operable Unit I – Protective
- Operable Unit III – Short-Term Protective
- Operable Unit IV – Protective
- Operable Unit V – Short-Term Protective
- Operable Unit VI – Short-Term Protective
- Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR) – Protective
- g-2/Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer/Underground Storage Tanks (g2/BLIP/USTs) – Protective
- High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) – Short-Term Protective

OU II does not have its own protectiveness statement because the remedial action for this OU is covered under the OU I, OU III, and g2/BLIP/USTs RODs. Because construction is not complete, a comprehensive protectiveness statement for the site is not appropriate at this time.

BNL is continuing to investigate PFAS and 1,4-dioxane under a new operable unit (OU VIII) and BNL has taken steps to address PFAS under a removal action. However, EPA is not aware of any remedy selected in a ROD for BNL addressing PFAS or 1,4 dioxane. It is EPA's understanding that a remedial investigation (RI) for these contaminants is planned, and that decisions about remediation will be made at a future date as OU VIII proceeds through the CERCLA process. Therefore, the presence of these contaminants is not currently affecting the protectiveness of the selected remedies at the OUs or areas identified above. EPA will continue to evaluate results from this investigation process and work with BNL to ensure that any additional remedial actions are taken to ensure continued protection of public health and the environment.

While EPA will be submitting further comments on the document, the comments submitted will not impact the protectiveness of the remedies in place and can be coordinated between the respective project managers at EPA and BNL.

EPA has evaluated the Superfund Performance Measures for BNL and has determined the status is as follows:

Environmental Indicators

- Human Exposure Under Control
- Groundwater Migration Not Under Control

The statutory deadline for completing the next Five-Year Review for BNL will be August 6, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 637-4447 or have your staff contact Sharon Hartzell, EPA Project Manager, at (212) 637-4132.

Sincerely,

Pat Evangelista, Director
Superfund and Emergency Management Division

cc: Brian Jankauskas - NYDEC
Douglas Pocze, EPA FFS
Sharon Hartzell, EPA FFS